
Title: Pride and the Virtues

Author: Bartholomew

Pride and the Virtues

There are those who hold that Pride, in moderation, is not necessarily opposing the Virtues. They argue that Pride in service of the Eight Virtues is actually a preferred condition as Pride serves the Virtues. A further argument is that the Virtue of Spirituality is in actuality a moderated instance of Pride. After all, is not Pride complimentary component to Humility? After all, Humility is the absence of the Principles, thus Pride would be the inclusion of all Principles rather than Spirituality. Further, Pride walks hand in hand with Spirituality since when applied to the Virtues; is not Spirituality the showing of Pride in the Virtues?

To all these contentions, I say no! In actuality, Pride is a poison to the Virtues and a drug to those who are caught in its influence. Pride is, as we are told in the ancient texts on the Virtues, the antithesis of Humility and is to be scorned. We are guided to shun those whom have fallen to the temptations of Pride.

Once one falls into the habit of Pride, one finds themselves filled with a

euphoria within themselves
and soon fall to the
addiction of the self. This
is often reinforced by
gaining the admiration of
others, especially when
the Prideful boasts are
of great deeds of Virtue.
Inevitably, the Prideful
person will start to
boast of future acts
until, one day, they begin
to make boasts that
their feats cannot
support nor complete.
Soon the admirations of
others turn to scorn,
distrust, disdain, and
distancing from the fallen
one. As has been said,
Pride comes before the
fall, and the fall
inevitable does come once
one sets on the path of
Pride.

Pride is also completely
and invariably ruinous to
the acts of Virtue
performed in its service.
Any act of Virtue
performed chiefly for the
personal recognition, Pride,
is tainted and invalid as
it serves not Virtue but
rather serves Pride.
Pride makes a mockery
of Virtue. To further
discuss this, let us look
at the effect Pride has
upon each Virtue.

Pride and Compassion

Compassion is the selfless
providing for those in
need or less fortunate
than oneself. Compassion
is best performed
anonymously so as to
avoid any obligatory
feelings. Once Pride is
allowed to corrupt
Compassion, inserted is
the need for notoriety
and credit for deeds of
presumed Compassion. This
refutes both aspects

basic to Compassion,
selflessness and
anonymity. Thusly Pride
turns Compassion into a
form of Subjugation just
for the glory of the
provider and furthermore
removes the action from
being one of Virtue.

Pride and Honor

Honor is the courage to
stand for truth, be it
comfortable or agonizing.
Honor is the quiet act of
supporting that which is
right and opposing that
which is wrong. Once
Pride is injected into
Honor there comes a
conflict. Pride does not
allow for acts and deeds
to be performed quietly,
they must have some
form of notoriety and or
fanfare. Further, Pride
disallows the supporting
that which is
uncomfortable or agonizing
as that distracts from
the repute of the deed.
Thus Pride not only
diminishes opportunities to
do Honor, it may oft
prevent deeds and acts
of Honor that may
detract from the self.
Pride and Honesty

Honesty is the simple
bearing of the absolute
Truth. Absolute Truth is
beyond the self and must
be universal and equal in
its form. Once Pride is
imposed upon Honesty,
there is little left which
is Truth. Pride does not
permit any universality.
Rather it insists on
taking the individual above
all else. Once the
individual becomes more
important than the all
encompassing, Truth and
Honesty fall away.

Pride and Sacrifice

Sacrifice is the gift of giving of oneself for the love of all the rest. It is performing deeds that take into account the whole of the society over the individual. Once Pride attempts to enter into the realm of Sacrifice, then Sacrifice slowly will be tainted and bent and twisted until it no longer can exist. Since Sacrifice places the all above the individual, and Pride places the individual above the all, the two are totally incompatible and each must destroy the other by definition. Sacrifice cannot exist where Pride is in residence.

Pride and Humility

Humility is the finding of one's place in the world, not according to one's own accomplishments, but according to the intrinsic value of all individuals. The anti-Virtue of Humility is Pride. Knowing this, there is no further need to discuss how Pride and Humility are incompatible.

Pride and Spirituality

Spirituality is the confrontation of one's inner self and the struggle to set oneself on the Path of Light. Spirituality is a personal and internal struggle with oneself for the betterment of the individual self. Spirituality is the only Virtue that does not imply or require others in order to pursue and achieve. Once Pride cracks open a seam into one's pursuit of Spirituality it allows opinions and views of

others into what should
be a personal struggle.
Since only the individual
truly knows the true
self, warts and all, only
the individual can guide a
soul to true Spirituality.
Others cannot direct one
in a Spiritual direction,
as they know not from
whence your journey did
start. So, we find that
Pride does not wed with
Spirituality

Pride and Valor

Valor is taking actions to
support one's own truth
and beliefs. Valor is
defending one's own
innermost held truisms. It
would seem that Pride
could be very compatible
with Valor. This is not
the case. Where Pride
does serve the inner self,
it is also subject to the
perceptions of the others.
Without the admiration of
others there is no Pride,
only the buffoonery of a
fool. Thus Pride would
corrupt Valor by
subjecting it to the
whims, desires, and
pressures of others.
Under the restrictions of
Pride, one cannot pursue
one's own beliefs.

Pride and Justice

Justice is the seeking of
that which is proven and
applying this with
kindness. Justice must
remain free from all
influence other than cold
hard truths. Justice must
be meted with regard to
the severity of the
truthful acts but applied
with gentle understanding.
Justice requires one to
be free of any and all
influence outside of facts.

Justice does not allow
for personality by either
the recipient or the one
applying Justice. Pride
would infect Justice with
personality and prejudice.
This would negate Truth
and quite verily affect
any application thus
negating gentle
understanding. Justice is
not a personality contest;
Pride is exactly a
personality contest.
Therefore, Pride and
Justice are incompatible.